

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal apparatus comprising:

an insertion hole into which to insert a first memory card for recording copyright-protected contents and a second memory card for recording copyright-unprotected contents, said first and said second memory card being substantially the same in shape;

judging means for judging whether a memory card inserted into said insertion hole is either said first memory card or said second memory card;

recording means which, if said judging means judges that said first memory card is inserted preparatory to recording copyright-unprotected contents, then records said copyright-unprotected contents to said first memory card; and

controlling means which, if said second memory card is inserted into the insertion hole after said recording means has recorded said copyright-unprotected contents to said first memory card, then transfers the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to the inserted second memory card.

2. A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said insertion hole has a plurality of slots into which a plurality of memory cards may be inserted

concurrently.

3. A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said insertion hole has a single slot which accommodates only one memory card and into which said first memory card is inserted to have said copyright-unprotected contents recorded thereto by said recording means, before said first memory card is removed from said insertion hole and replaced by said second memory card inserted therein.

4. A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said copyright-protected contents include a copyright-protected file storing at least one of three categories of contents composed of music, videos, and games, provided by copyright holders.

5. A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said copyright-unprotected contents are constituted by copyright-free software.

6. A terminal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said copyright-free software is made up of privately produced contents.

7. A terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controlling means transfers the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to said second memory card inserted in said

the conversion by said A/D converting means; wherein the compressed digital audio signal from said compression processing means is recorded to said second memory card as copyright-unprotected contents.

10. A recording method for use with a terminal apparatus comprising an insertion hole into which to insert a first memory card for recording copyright-protected contents and a second memory card for recording copyright-unprotected contents, said first and said second memory card being substantially the same in shape, said recording method comprising the steps of:

judging whether a memory card inserted into said
insertion hole is either said first memory card or said
second memory card;

if said first memory card is judged to be inserted preparatory to recording copyright-unprotected contents, then recording said copyright-unprotected contents to said first memory card; and

if said second memory card is inserted into the insertion hole after said copyright-unprotected contents have been recorded to said first memory card, then transferring the recorded copyright-unprotected contents from said first memory card to the inserted second memory card.

unprotected contents, said first and said second memory card being substantially the same in shape;

judging means for judging whether a memory card inserted into said insertion hole is either said first memory card or said second memory card;

recording means which, if said judging means judges that said second memory card is inserted preparatory to recording copyright-protected contents, then records said copyright-protected contents to said second memory card; and

controlling means which, if said first memory card is inserted into the insertion hole after said recording means has recorded said copyright-protected contents to said second memory card, then transfers the recorded copyright-protected contents from said second memory card to the inserted first memory card.

14. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said insertion hole has a plurality of slots into which a plurality of memory cards may be inserted concurrently.

15. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said insertion hole has a single slot which accommodates only one memory card and into which said second memory card is inserted to have said copyright-

protected contents recorded thereto by said recording means, before said second memory card is removed from said insertion hole and replaced by said first memory card inserted therein.

16. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said copyright-protected contents include a copyright-protected file storing at least one of three categories of contents composed of music, videos, and games, provided by copyright holders.

17. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said copyright-unprotected contents are constituted by copyright-free software.

18. A terminal apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said copyright-free software is made up of privately produced contents.

19. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said controlling means transfers the recorded copyright-protected contents from said second memory card to said first memory card inserted in said insertion hole, before erasing said copyright-protected contents from said second memory card.

20. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising comparing means for comparing a recordable capacity of said first memory card inserted in

008060" THTB5960

said insertion hole with the capacity of said copyright-protected contents recorded in said second memory card; wherein said controlling means permits the transfer of the recorded contents between the memory cards if said recordable capacity of said first memory card is judged to be greater than the capacity of the recorded copyright-protected contents in said second memory card upon comparison by said comparing means, said controlling means inhibiting said transfer if said recordable capacity of said first memory card is judged to be less than the capacity of the recorded copyright-protected contents in said second memory card upon comparison by said comparing means.

21. A terminal apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising: a microphone; A/D converting means for converting an analog audio signal picked up by said microphone into a digital audio signal; and compression processing means for subjecting to a predetermined compression process said digital audio signal following the conversion by said A/D converting means; wherein the compressed digital audio signal from said compression processing means is recorded to said second memory card as copyright-unprotected contents.

22. A recording method for use with a terminal

24. A recording method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of: comparing a recordable capacity of said first memory card inserted in said insertion hole with the capacity of said copyright-protected contents recorded in said second memory card; permitting the transfer of the recorded contents between the memory cards if said recordable capacity of said first memory card is judged to be greater than the capacity of the recorded copyright-protected contents in said second memory card upon comparison; and inhibiting said transfer if said recordable capacity of said first memory card is judged to be less than the capacity of the recorded copyright-protected contents in said second memory card following the comparison.

000000" T-185950